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To:  
CC:  
Date: 7/18/2013 2:43:52 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 7/18/13

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## OPA Daily Digest for 7/18/13

### Congressional Inquiries:

**Rep. John Shimkus (Ill.)** – 7/1/13: Rep. Shimkus requests a West Lake Landfill site visit. Due: 7/8/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Deb Fischer (Ne)** – 7/18/13: Requesting information on Nebraska's Brownfields for upcoming Senate hearing next week. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

### State Government Inquiries:

None

### Press Inquiries:

**Columbus Telegraph Herald** – Tyler Ellison – 7/17/13: Questions regarding the upcoming relocation of businesses at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Superfund Site in Columbus, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**St. Louis Post Dispatch** – Mark Schlinkmann – 7/19/13: Questions about a complaint filed by an environmental organization regarding drinking water in Missouri. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

**Associated Press** – Chris Blank – 7/18/13: Questions about water quality in Missouri and shared responsibilities with MDNR. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**KCUR Public Radio, Kansas City** – Dan Verbeck – 7/18/13: Questions about \$600,000 EPA brownfields grant to the cities of Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**Kansas City Star** – Lynn Horsley – 7/18/13: Questions about Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463 (closed)

### Environmental Stories:

**Bloomberg - McCarthy Confirmation to Lead EPA Clears Way for Rules** - 7/18/13 - Gina McCarthy won U.S. Senate confirmation as head of the Environmental Protection Agency and carry out President Barack Obama's agenda to adopt measures aimed at reducing air pollution and fighting climate change. McCarthy, the agency's assistant administrator, directed EPA rulemaking in Obama's first term, forcing coal-fired power plants to curb mercury emissions, imposing new standards on boilers in hospitals and paper

mills and setting limits on pollution from cement plants.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-18/mccarthy-confirmation-to-lead-epa-clears-way-for-rules.html>

**Reuters - Senate votes to move forward on Gina McCarthy EPA nomination** - 7/18/13 - The Senate voted on Thursday to move toward confirmation of Gina McCarthy as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ending a months-long standoff on the issue. Senators voted 69-31 vote to close debate and move to a final confirmation vote for McCarthy, which could come later on Thursday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/18/us-usa-energy-mccarthy-idUSBRE96H17120130718>

**National Journal - Gina McCarthy Moves Step Closer to Heading EPA** - 7/18/13 - Gina McCarthy, President Obama's nominee to head the Environmental Protection Agency, and thus to play a central role in his controversial climate change plan, moved a step closer to Senate confirmation Thursday, as Senators voted 69-31 on a procedural measure clearing the way to the final vote locking her into the job.

<http://news.yahoo.com/gina-mccarthy-moves-step-closer-heading-epa-145925407.html>

**Los Angeles Times - Senate confirms Gina McCarthy as new EPA head** - 7/18/13 - The Senate voted to confirm Gina McCarthy as the new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, ending what had been the longest delay for any of President Obama's second-term Cabinet picks.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-senate-confirms-gina-mccarthy-epa-20130718.0.4708213.story>

**Associated Press - Senate approves Gina McCarthy to head EPA** - 7/18/13 - The Senate has approved Gina McCarthy to head the Environmental Protection Agency, hours after it also approved a new secretary of labor. McCarthy was approved 59-40. Minutes earlier, senators voted 69-31 to overcome Republican objections against her nomination, nine votes more than are needed to end filibusters.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2013/07/18/senate-approves-gina-mccarthy-head-epa/eGYV9rOIn38hFmg4YxoWqM/story.html>

**St. Louis Business Journal - Missouri agencies to receive \$1.6 million from EPA** - 7/18/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced three Missouri agencies will receive \$1.6 million in federal grants to clean up and redevelop contaminated areas. Each agency will be awarded two amounts, one to address hazardous substances and another to address petroleum contamination.

[http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning\\_call/2013/07/missouri-agencies-to-receive-16.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2013/07/missouri-agencies-to-receive-16.html)

**Iowa Public Radio - EPA Building Named For Bill Clinton; He Says That's Fitting** - 7/18/13 - The environment may not come to mind when most people think about former President Bill Clinton, but on Wednesday he defended his legacy as the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C., was renamed in his honor. At a ceremony in the EPA complex, Clinton mentioned reading an article that questioned whether his was the right name to put on the building.

<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/epa-building-named-bill-clinton-he-says-thats-fitting>

**Scottsbluff Star Herald - Wyoming, Nebraska among states suing Environmental Protection Agency** - 7/18/13 - Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and his counterparts in 11 other states sued the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday for alleged violations of the Freedom of Information Act. Pruitt said the agency encourages certain types of lawsuits by nonprofit environmental organizations, such as Greenpeace, Defenders of Wildlife, WildEarth Guardians and the Sierra Club. The EPA then settles the suits by entering consent decrees that contain obligations not found in federal law, Pruitt said.

[http://www.starherald.com/news/regional\\_statewide/wyoming-nebraska-among-states-suing-environmental-protection-agency/article\\_ca2d2eda-ef03-11e2-83da-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.starherald.com/news/regional_statewide/wyoming-nebraska-among-states-suing-environmental-protection-agency/article_ca2d2eda-ef03-11e2-83da-001a4bcf887a.html)

**Associated Press - EPA grant will fund cleanups in KCMO, KCK** - 7/18/13 - Kansas City, Kan., and neighboring Kansas City, Kan., are sharing a \$600,000 federal grant for cleaning up polluted sites. Sly James, mayor of Kansas City, Mo., and Mark Holland, mayor of Kansas City, Kan., on Thursday announced the start of the One-KC Brownfields Coalition, which is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/07/18/3038541/epa-grant-will-fund-cleanups-in.html>

**The Daily Iowan - Editorial: Clean up Iowa's waterways** - 7/18/13 - Environmental activists are pushing for stricter enforcement of Clean Water Act regulations in Iowa, but Gov. Terry Branstad is determined to keep federal environmental regulators out of his state. Documents obtained by the Associated Press show that Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds

wrote directly to top EPA officials in Washington in May. Their letter expressed “strong concern” with an EPA proposal to investigate livestock farms with more than 750 animals, a major source of pollution in Iowa.

<http://www.dailyiowan.com/2013/07/18/Opinions/33994.html>

**The Hill - Let Gina McCarthy be confirmed as EPA head; She’s good for both business and the environment** - 7/18/13 - As we move further into the 21st century, the question of whether to sustain our economy or care for an environment is clearly a false choice. The two can be mutually compatible. No one embraces that fact better than Gina McCarthy.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/311735-let-gina-mccarthy-be-confirmed-as-epa-head-shes-good-for-both-business-and-the-environment->

**St. Louis Public Radio - Missouri Authorities Awarded \$1.6 M To Redevelop Brownfields** - 7/18/13 - Three Missouri agencies will receive \$1.6 million in federal funds to cleanup and redevelop contaminated properties. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced this week that it has selected public authorities in St. Louis, Springfield and Jefferson City, to receive the funding as part of its \$15 million supplemental revolving loan funds (RLF).

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/missouri-authorities-awarded-16-m-redevelop-brownfields>

**Iowa Public Radio - How To Better Protect Farmworkers From Pesticides: Spanish** - 7/18/13 - Advocates for farmworkers, especially those who grow America's leafy greens and fresh vegetables, are pushing the government to do more to protect those workers from exposure to pesticides. A 20-year-old regulation — the Worker Protection Standard — is supposed to prevent harmful pesticide exposures on the farm. But activist groups like Farmworker Justice say it falls short, and the Environmental Protection Agency is currently working on a new version.

<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/how-better-protect-farm-workers-pesticides-use-spanish>

**Kansas City InfoZine - First Ozone Alert of the Season Issued for Greater Kansas City Thursday, July 18** - 7/18/13 - The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Air Quality Program has issued an orange Ozone Alert for Thursday, July 18. This alert indicates that an unhealthy level of ground-level ozone, also known as smog, is expected tomorrow in the Kansas City region.

<http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/56499/>

**Washington Post - EPA headquarters renamed in honor of Bill Clinton** - 7/18/13 - At an event Wednesday celebrating the renaming of the Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in his honor, former president Bill Clinton began his remarks by saying the accolade could easily have gone to his vice president, Al Gore. During the eight years of his presidency, Clinton presided over some of the most sweeping environmental protections in the nation’s history, pushed by Gore and others in the administration.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/epa-headquarters-renamed-in-honor-of-bill-clinton/2013/07/17/64b80098-ef08-11e2-bed3-b9b6fe264871\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/epa-headquarters-renamed-in-honor-of-bill-clinton/2013/07/17/64b80098-ef08-11e2-bed3-b9b6fe264871_story.html)

## Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

## Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

## Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**7/18/13** – Kansas City Bi-State Brownfields Coalition Kick-Off Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

**7/19/13** – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Change of Command Ceremony, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7756

**7/23/13** – Meet with Des Moines Water Works, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**7/23/13** – Meet with Governor Brandstad and IDNR. Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**7/24/13** – Federal Partnership Meeting with HUD and DOT, Regional Office. Contact: Dave Doyle, 7667

**7/25/13** – Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake – Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

**7/26/13** – 2013 Regional Local Emergency Planning and Response Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

**7/29/13** – Congressman Clay Carter Carburetor Event, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

**8/14-15/13** – Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards Ceremony, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**8/27/13** – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

#### **DRA:**

**7/17-18/13** - Executive Management Council, Washington DC, Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**7/18/13** – FY2013 Cross Cutting Fundamental Strategy Mid-Year Progress Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

#### **RA/Immediate Office**

None

#### **Other Events**

#### **AWMD**

None

#### **CNSL**

None

#### **ECO/EJ**

None

#### **ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

None

**RA/OPA**

None

**SUPR**

**8/13-14/13** – EPA/DOD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program conference, Washington, DC. Contact: Clint Sperry, 7157

**8/28/13** – State of Missouri – Chem/Bio Functional Exercise, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Megan Schuette, 7630

**WWPD**

**7/21-26/13** – National NPDES Permit Writers' Conference, Shepherdstown, W. Virginia. Contacts: Glenn Curtis, 7726, Sunny Wellesley, 7136

**7/24-25/13** – Public Water Supply System End of Year Meeting with Nebraska Health and Human Services, Lincoln, Neb. Contacts: Ken Deason, 7585, Scott Marquess, 7131